

Electronic Titling for New Vehicles

This Act allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish an electronic titling program for new motor vehicles. The DMV will refrain from issuing a certificate of title in paper form and, instead, shall create only the electronic record of such title to be retained by the Department in its existing electronic title record system with a notation that no certificate of title has been printed on paper. The owner of a vehicle will be deemed to have obtained and the Department will be deemed to have issued, a certificate of title when the electronic record has been created. An owner or lienholder listed on an electronic title record may at any time request and the Department shall provide a paper certificate of title for the vehicle. All transfers of vehicle ownership, with certain exceptions, are required to have a paper certificate of title.

Submitted as:

State: Virginia

[Chapter 650 \(S. 686\)](#)

Status: Became law in April 2012

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Issuance of certificate of title and registration card*]

2 A. The Department of Motor Vehicles, on receiving an application for a certificate of title for a
3 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, shall issue to the owner a certificate of title and a
4 registration card as separate documents.

5 B. Subject to all applicable federal laws, the Department may, at the written request of the
6 owner or lienholder listed on the application for certificate of title, supplemental lien, or
7 transfer of lien, refrain from issuing a certificate of title in paper form and, instead, shall
8 create only the electronic record of such title to be retained by the Department in its existing
9 electronic title record system with a notation that no certificate of title has been printed on
10 paper. The owner of a vehicle will be deemed to have obtained and the Department will be
11 deemed to have issued, a certificate of title when such title record has been created
12 electronically as provided in this subsection. An owner or lienholder listed on a title record
13 so created may at any time request and the Department shall provide a paper certificate of
14 title for the vehicle. All transfers of vehicle ownership shall require a paper certificate of title
15 in accordance with, and subject to, all applicable federal laws.

16
17 Section 2. [*Electronic titling program.*]

18 The Department may establish an electronic titling program for any "new motor vehicle" as
19 that term is defined in [insert citation]. Participants in the electronic titling program shall submit
20 electronic applications for original motor vehicle titles in a form and format prescribed by the
21 Department. Participants must provide all documentation or information required by the Department
22 to process the electronic title application, including an electronic manufacturer's certificate of origin
23 and any information required by the Department in accordance with [insert citation]. The records of
24 a nationally recognized motor vehicle title database shall be searched prior to transfer of vehicle
25 ownership. Participants shall collect from the purchaser of the new motor vehicle any fee charged for
26 the search of the nationally recognized motor vehicle title database. Upon receipt of a completed
27 electronic application, the Department shall refrain from issuing a certificate of title in paper form
28 and, instead, shall create only the electronic record of such title to be retained by the Department in

1 its existing electronic title record system with a notation that no certificate of title has been printed
2 on paper. The owner of a motor vehicle will be deemed to have obtained and the Department will be
3 deemed to have issued a certificate of title when such title record has been created electronically as
4 provided in this section. An owner listed on a title record so created may at any time request and the
5 Department shall provide a paper certificate of title for the vehicle.